

Mr. Bryan and the Peace Treaty.

(Continued from Page 7.)

party at that time, from the president down, who professed to believe that the ratification of the treaty was intended to express any definite purpose whatever with reference to our policy in the Philippine islands. Not one.

"The President of the United States, in his message transmitting that treaty, expressly declared that that was not a time to debate or consider that question; such discussion, he said, would be appropriate after the treaty had been ratified. 'Do not talk about it now,' he said, 'but after you have ratified the treaty, then it will be in order to consider whether or not we shall permanently hold the Philippine islands.' Such, in substance, was the position of President McKinley.

"What then was the attitude of the senator from Wisconsin himself? He was strongly opposed to the permanent annexation of the islands. It was only after a period of doubt and hesitation that he voted for the treaty, and then with the distinct declaration that he would not vote for it if he thought it meant permanent annexation.

"Without stopping to read, I shall ask to put into the Record an extract from the speech then made by the senator from Wisconsin, and to follow that extract with an interview by Mr. William J. Bryan, both on the same line, using the same argument, and outlining the same policy:

"I am not able to forget that it is a treaty of peace, and that its ratification is to bring peace between the United States and the kingdom of Spain. A rejection of it continues the status of war. Senators say that Spain is exhausted, and that active hostilities would not be renewed. Possibly this is true. Possibly it is not true. One can never safely prophesy what complications will come from a long-continued status of war.

"If the status of war is to continue, we could not well reduce our expenses to the basis of peace. We should be obliged inevitably to maintain our country and our expenditure upon the basis of war, and the cost would be great and in the end probably useless. The situation, Mr. President, could not fail to be filled with unpleasant possibilities, indefinite public burden, uncertainties, and trouble."

"This is the extract from Mr. Bryan's interview to which reference was made:

"Some think that the fight should be made against ratification of the treaty, but I would prefer another plan. If the treaty is rejected, negotiations must be renewed, and instead of settling the question according to our ideas we must settle it by diplomacy, with a possibility of international complications. It will be easier, I think, to end the war at once by ratifying the treaty and then deal with the subject in our own way."

"Mr. Bryan urged the ratification of the treaty, expressly reserving his right and declaring his purpose to oppose the permanent retention of the Philippine islands under the sovereignty of the United States. The senator from Wisconsin urged the ratification of the treaty, expressly reserving his right and declaring his purpose to oppose the permanent retention of the Philippine islands under the sovereignty of the United States. The senator from Wisconsin and Mr. Bryan fought side by side. They were Damon and Phythias, Jonathan and David, Castor and Pollux in that great battle—

"Two souls with but a single thought, Two hearts that beat as one."

"Mr. President, if I had then been a member of the senate, I do not be-

lieve I should have voted to ratify the treaty; yet I can see the force of the arguments that were presented upon the other side; I can see the strength of Mr. Bryan's position, as so ably expounded by the senator from Wisconsin. If I had been here, with the responsibility resting upon me, I might have been persuaded to vote for the ratification of the treaty by the argument that it was necessary for us to bring about a state of peace to remove the danger of a re-opening of hostilities, or at least to put an end to a condition that was disturbing the business and commerce of the country. I might have been moved by the argument that in a few weeks there would be a change in the membership of the senate that would give an increased republican majority, and that to then defeat the treaty would simply delay it to no purpose. I believe I should have been almost persuaded by the belief that the distinguished senator from Wisconsin would use his influence after the treaty had been ratified to secure peace and independence to the people of the Philippines.

"But, Mr. President, to argue that we are too late, the senator proceeded to argue that we are too early. His first objection is that we have waited too long. His second objection is that we have not waited long enough. He says that we are making trouble by a premature discussion of this question; that it is too early to talk about it now. We were asked to wait until the treaty was ratified. We waited for that, and then were told that we should wait until the insurrection has been suppressed; that the civil authority of the United States has been established. Well, they tell us that the insurrection has been suppressed; that the civil authority of the United States has been established; that with a few trifling exceptions a peace, as deep as that which reigned at Warsaw, prevails throughout the length and breadth of the archipelago; and yet we are still commanded to wait, and it is still treason for a democrat to express an opinion.

"When Governor Taft was before the committee he protested with some show of indignation against any consideration whatever of a question that would not be ripe for consideration, he said, for twenty-five, or fifty, or perhaps a hundred years. Wait, wait, wait—manana, manana, manana—that Spanish word of procrastination, which the senator spoke so trippingly on the tongue, has become the very motto of the republican party. Among the other things you have learned from Spain is the Spanish conception of tomorrow. Your promises to the people of the Philippine islands are for a day that will never come."

The Secretary's Surprise.

The new secretary of the navy is reported to have expressed surprise at the large number of naval officers who are occupying pleasant and by no means onerous assignments at Washington and to have intimated that he will shortly find occupation for them at sea.

The secretary should be careful. He does not appear to have grasped the fact that the naval officers there are the political strength of our ocean defenders. Has not Crowinshield, after a long term of sticking close to his desk, been sent to England as the choicest flower of our naval heroism? Does he suppose that careful naval strategist has left his base undefended and that the social and private pulls will not be set to work when he disturbs the existing arrangements?

Mr. Moody will find his peace of mind very much enhanced if he abandons the rash object of overturning the pleasant social duties of the naval clique.—Pittsburg Dispatch.

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